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BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year, 1945.



TOWN HALL,
LYMINGTON.

May, 1946.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON.**

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1945.

Regarding the vital statistics, reported later in detail, the high death rate is accounted for by the high percentage of people over 60 years of age residing in the district. Out of a total of 297 deaths 170 were over 70 years of age; of these, 92 deaths occurred among people between 70 and 80 years, 63 between 80 and 90 years, 14 between 90 and 100, and one of 101 years.

We cannot feel satisfied with the death rate of infants under 1 year of age; this is much too high, but it is difficult to give any reasonable explanation. Various factors may have contributed, such as housing conditions, acute shortage of doctors, difficulty in obtaining proper nursing attention, and no doubt the worries arising from these factors contributed to the unsatisfactory position.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Lymington Borough is a district of 15,302 acres which includes 1,572 acres of mudland. The area is very largely agricultural in character and has three main shopping and residential districts, namely Lymington Town on the Eastern end of the district, New Milton on the West and Milford-on-Sea on the South. In addition to these there are two other districts, namely Hordle which is North of Milford-on-Sea, and Pennington, which adjoins Lymington Town. These are less populated than the three mentioned previously, but in view of the provision of main drainage now provided there will probably be progressive development of these parts.

The Borough is ideally situated, having the New Forest on its Northern border, the sea on the South, and the large shopping centres of Bournemouth and Southampton within easy reach.

The health of the district, with the exception of infant mortality, has been excellent and I think it is worthy of note that during the war years there has been little evidence of the health of the inhabitants of the Borough being adversely affected, even though outdoor activities and leisure time were, of necessity, curtailed considerably. This happy state of affairs was due, I think, to the natural healthy surroundings in which we are so fortunate in the Borough. Perhaps I should mention, however, that the old people, especially women, have suffered throughout the war years owing to the great difficulties in obtaining domestic help, added to which has been the natural anxiety for members of their family doing National Service.

DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT

			1945	1944
Area (in acres)	...	...	13,730	
Population	...	...	19,910	19,680
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	7,000 (approx.)	7,000 (approx.)
Rateable Value	...	...	£168,157	£167,416
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£667	£655

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	
Legitimate	278	145	133		
Illegitimate	44	19	25		16.2

Still Births				Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	
Legitimate	9	3	6		
Illegitimate	1	1	—		30.1

Deaths	297	138	159	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.9
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The death rate of England and Wales is 11.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—				Deaths
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	1

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	71.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				71.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				68.2

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	45
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	3
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

The chief causes of death were:—

Nephritis	...	...	11	Pulm. Tuberculosis	...	9
Malignant Disease	...	...	45	Intra Cranial Vascular		
Heart Disease	...	...	79	Lesions	...	34
Pneumonia and				Congenital Debility		
Bronchitis	...	...	19	& Premature Births		14
Influenza	...	...	3			

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) **Public Health Officers:—**

(a) Medical Officer of Health (part time—temporary):

E. Croft Watts, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.

(b) Senior Sanitary Inspector:

N. Raw, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(c) Additional Sanitary Inspector:

T. Stafford, M.S.I.A.

(2) General Health Services:—

- ... (a) **Laboratory facilities.**—Examinations made at the Hampshire County Laboratories.
- (b) **Ambulance facilities.**—The Council has its own ambulance for the removal of infectious diseases, and non-infectious cases are removed by the St. John Ambulance Association. There is one ambulance serving the Lymington Area and another the New Milton district. This ambulance service is efficient and adequate.
- (c) **Child Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics** are provided by the County Authority and are administered by the Health Department of that Authority. In this Borough the following are the facilities provided:—
Ante-Natal Clinic: Parish Hall, Lymington.
Child Welfare Centres:—
 Parish Hall, Lymington.
 Women's Institute Hall, Hordle.
 Church Hall, Milford-on-Sea.
 Church Hall, New Milton.
 Women's Institute Hut, Pennington.
- (d) **Protective treatment against Diphtheria.** — A Clinic is held at the Town Hall every Tuesday for the immunising of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years. This service is administered by the Health Department of the Lymington Borough Council under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply:—

Lymington Town is supplied from the Corporation owned works at Ampress, assisted by a supply from the West Hampshire Water Company. The other parts of the Borough are supplied from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company.

The water supply from the mains in the district has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Regarding the supply from the Ampress Water Works, No. 2 borehole was shut off in February 1945 and the water is supplied from only one bore. A total of 60,641,109 gallons of water was raised during the year, and to help in the supply to the Town 3,212,500 gallons of water were taken from the West Hampshire Water Company's mains. This total gallons of water is approximately 10,000,000 more than was used in 1938, probably largely due to the increase of population and the greater need of the factories in the district.

Four samples of water as supplied to Lymington Town were taken during the year, three were satisfactory and the fourth was stated "not to be up to the standard for a public supply." This latter sample was taken prior to chlorination and samples taken direct from the tap supply were satisfactory. All water from the Ampress Works is chlorinated prior to distribution to the Town.

The West Hampshire Water Company continue to supply the Health Department with copies of the Analysts' reports on the water supplied by them and these reports were all satisfactory.

By far the greater part of the Borough has main water available, but wells are the source of supply for some outlying houses. Fifteen samples of well water have been taken during the year and in eight cases the reports were unsatisfactory. In one instance the main water was not available and eventually the well supply was made fit for drinking purposes. Regarding the other unsatisfactory reports, the premises concerned were either connected to the main water supply in 1945 or will be early in 1946. The West Hampshire Water Company extended their mains to Sky End Lane, Hordle, where the well supplies to the cottages were found to be unsatisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage:—

Main drainage facilities are available in the greater part of the Borough, and, taking into consideration labour and other difficulties, satisfactory progress is being made in the connection of properties to the new sewer which was completed in 1942. This work shows an increase over 1944, but active work in this direction is still very necessary, particularly in the Pennington area. I am glad to report that the main sewer has been provided in St. Mark's Road, Pennington, but this facility is also very necessary in Lodge Road, Westway and Greenlands Estate, where drainage difficulties now exist.

ANALYSIS OF SEWER CONNECTIONS

District	Number of Properties Connected					Totals
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	
New Milton ...	5	—	1	—	11	17
Milford-on-Sea ...	—	41	10	10	2	63
Everton and Hordle ...	36	6	10	7	12	71
Pennington ...	63	8	12	7	9	99
Total connections to New Sewer ...	104	55	33	24	34	250
to Old Sewer ...	4	1	2	5	4	16
Total connections ...	108	56	35	29	38	266

Public Cleansing:—

The collection and disposal of refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department and, taking into consideration the difficulties in the repair of vehicles and shortage of transport for covering material, this service is working satisfactorily. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on sites at New Milton, Lymington and Keyhaven.

During the year there was a serious infestation by crickets of the refuse sites at Lymington and New Milton, the houses in the

vicinity became infested and a very uncomfortable time was experienced by the householders. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining material to deal with the crickets, but we were fortunate in obtaining considerable help from the Military Authorities, who treated the houses on the Tithe Barn Estate with D.D.T. This treatment to the houses, together with the treatment given to the refuse pits, helped a very great deal in reducing the undoubted annoyance and discomfort experienced by the people living in the neighbourhood. Numerous complaints of cricket infestations were received from householders both in the Lymington and New Milton districts and help was given by the free supply of suitable powders. As a result of these infestations the refuse sites at Lymington and New Milton were closed.

58 visits were made regarding the provision of proper sanitary bins for refuse; 31 premises required new bins and 17 of these were provided during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections made during 1945:—

	Inspections	Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Dairies and Cowsheds ...	99	16	11
Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards ...	12	6	6
Inspection of Food ...	156	—	—
Inspection of Shops ...	138	5	5
Factories (including Bakehouses) ...	33	7	7
Infestations. House pests ...	42	19	19
Drainage ...	204	48	38
Housing and Housing Repairs	284	56	40
Essential Works ...	24	—	—
Enquiries — Applications for Council Houses ...	96	—	—
Dustbins ...	58	31	17
Complaints and Nuisances ...	96	34	30
Camping ...	45	—	—
Water Samples ...	19	8	6
Water Supplies ...	41		
Rats and Mice ...	1646	368	368x
Infectious Diseases ...	31	—	—
Disinfections ...	20	—	—
Scabies enquiries ...	9	—	—
Diphtheria Immunisation ...	45	—	—
Schools ...	10	3	3
Refuse Sites ...	22	—	—
Re Cricket Infestation ...	106	21	21
Petroleum Regs. ...	22	—	—
Unclassified ...	22	—	—
TOTALS ...	3280	622	571

x indicates that treatment was given.

Regarding the service of Notices, only one informal notice was served during the year and this was in respect of house repairs. Other matters requiring attention were dealt with by personal contact or by preliminary letters.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 99 Registered factories and workshops in the District. A total of 33 visits were made during the year and action was required in seven cases as follows:—

Defective drain	...	...	1	Remedied	1
Unclean W.C. pans	...	...	3	„	3
Defective flooring to sanitary convenience	...	...	1	„	1
Defective structure (sanitary convenience)	...	...	1	„	1
Defective sanitary fittings	...	...	1	„	1

Generally speaking these premises have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

The defects outstanding in 1944 were remedied in 1945.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

96 visits were made in investigating complaints and nuisances and action was required in 34 cases. 45 complaints were received, but action was needed in only 29 of these.

Details are as follows:—

Drain defects	...	...	16	Remedied	15
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	6	„	6
Insanitary Accumulation	...	...	2	„	2
Leaking Roofs	...	...	2	„	1
Other house defects	...	...	4	„	2
Refuse sites and crickets	...	...	4	„	4

MILK, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

There are 88 Registered premises in the district and taking the general shortage of labour into consideration a satisfactory position is being maintained. Improvements continue to be made to Dairy buildings as follows:—

New cowsheds erected	...	...	1
New dairies constructed	...	...	3
Reconstruction of cowsheds	...	...	2
Paving of cowshed yards	...	...	2
Improved bottling and washing facilities	...	...	2

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations have been issued by the County Council as follows:—

Accredited Milk	...	28 (Increase of 1 over 1944)
T.T. Tested Milk	..	7 (Increase of 1 over 1944)

Under the same Regulations the Council has issued four Bottling Licences (3 T.T. Milk and 1 Accredited Milk) and ten Dealers' Licences for the sale of graded milk.

The defects found during the year were:—

Lack of Limewashing	... 6	Defective roof	... 1
Defective floors	... 3	Defective drainage	... 2
Unclean milking stools	... 1	Unclean bottles	... 1
Contravention of Milk (Special Designations) Order	... 1		
Exposure of milk to contamination			... 1

Eleven of these defects were remedied during the year.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

In the summer of 1945, camping again became popular, but only one Licence was issued by the Council in respect of land used for camping. Eleven licences were issued in respect of individual moveable dwellings.

It is quite evident that provision will have to be made for this form of holiday, particularly in the Milford-on-Sea and New Milton areas. The approval of sites for camping requires very careful consideration both from a Public Health and from a Town Planning point of view, and the present system of co-operation between the two appropriate committees will help materially in controlling this type of holiday in the interests of the general public.

The holiday bungalow site at Naish Farm, New Milton, has been the subject of investigation and the position here will be kept under careful observation during the coming summer. Difficulties have arisen due to some unsuitable buildings being occupied during the winter months, but I hope that the closer co-operation between the Tenants' Association, the owner of the land and the Council will help in removing conditions which may be prejudicial to health.

MEAT, SLAUGHTER HOUSES, FOOD STORES, ETC.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses and two licensed knackers' yards in the district. Practically all the home killed meat sold in the Borough is from animals slaughtered in Government Slaughterhouses in the Bournemouth area, where the meat is subject to inspection prior to delivery to the butchers' shops.

Considerable time is spent in the examination of foodstuffs, partly due to the variety of different foods examined and to the shopkeepers' need to recover the points value of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption.

The following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Beef	...	...	Haemorrhagic	...	...	57 lbs.
"	...	...	Bruized	...	...	17 lbs.
"	...	...	Tainted	...	...	346 lbs.
Pork	...	...	Haemorrhagic	...	...	26 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	Tainted	...	...	53 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	Rancidity	...	...	120 lbs.
Offal	...	...	Tainted	...	...	14 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Beef Suet	...	...	Tainted (Paraffin)	...	...	5 lbs.
Fish (various)	...	...	Decomposition, etc.	...	...	34 st.
Winkles	...	...	Decomposition, etc.	...	...	10 galls.
Escallops	...	...	Decomposition, etc.	...	...	6 doz.
Cheese	...	...	Out of condition	...	...	15 lbs. 10 ozs.
Butter & Margarine	...	...	Out of condition	...	...	10 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	Tainted (Paraffin)	...	...	4 doz. and 8.
Pkts. of pudding mixture	...	...	Out of condition	...	...	253 pkts.
Pkts. of Oats	...	...	Out of condition	...	...	4 lbs.
Rye meal	...	...	Tainted (creosote)	...	...	29 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	Broken	...	...	4 doz. and 8.
Tins of meat	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	...	...	602
" " fish	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	...	...	160
" " milk	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	...	...	249
" " peas & beans	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	...	...	211
" " soups	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	...	...	26
" " vegetables	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	...	...	21
Tins/Jars of jam	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	...	...	51
" " fruit	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	...	...	2

All fats and meat (other than in tins) were returned to the Wholesalers as required by the Ministry of Food and dealt with by them for manufacturing purposes.

Where possible other condemned food was used for animal feeding.

Regarding the inspection of food premises, the following matters were remedied during the year:—

Lack of cleanliness	...	...	5
Defective drainage	...	...	3

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT

The administration and the carrying out of duties under the above Act is now very much improved following the appointment of a full time Rodent Officer/Operator. Cases of infestation are investigated without delay and there is a more systematic inspection of the district.

The following indicates the action that has been taken since the appointment of a full time officer, i.e., from the 1st July, 1945, to the 31st December, 1945:—

	Infested Premises	Major Infestations	Minor Infestations
Refuse Sites and Depots	... 20	5	} 209
Shops	... 30	1	
Dwelling Houses	... 166	1	

A total of 587 rat points were baited and the results of the treatments were generally satisfactory, there being few cases of re-infestation. The pre-baiting material used is sausage rusk, bread mash or fish, and the poisons used are zinc phosphide, arsenic and red squill.

The sewers in Lymington Town were test-baited for rats, but there was no evidence of rat infestation. These tests were carried out under the supervision of a Ministry of Food official attached to the department dealing with the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

I might remind the Council that the War Agricultural Executive Committee, through the County Pests Officer, is responsible for the administration of the Act so far as agricultural holdings are concerned, the Local Authority having the administrative responsibility for all other properties. In view of the fact that there are agricultural holdings in the midst of built-up areas, this dual control presents difficulties unless there is active and close co-operation between the two authorities.

Systematic inspections under the block control system of the built-up parts of the district is to be carried out during 1946, and this method should materially assist in cleaning out the worst infested parts of the area.

The decision of the Council in treating infested private houses free of charge to the occupier will help very considerably in bringing cases of infestation to our notice and should assist in the proper treatment of those properties with resulting benefit to those living in the vicinity.

HOUSING

Seventy-three houses were inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts regarding the state of repair or overcrowding. Cases of over-crowding and other unhealthy housing conditions where re-housing was required were referred to the Housing Committee and efforts were made to relieve the position by providing alternative accommodation.

Difficulties still exist in the building trades and generally there is delay in getting repairs carried out. However, out of 56 houses where action was required, 40 were dealt with during the year. The nature of the defects remedied were as follows:—

Leaky or defective roofs	...	...	...	20
Defective sanitary fittings renewed or repaired				9
Defective drainage	...	...	...	3
Cases of overcrowding	...	...	...	3
Unfit houses closed	...	...	...	1
Insanitary houses cleansed	...	...	...	3
Other housing defects				
(Repairs to windows, floorings, walls, etc.)				26
Dangerous structures	...	...	...	1

PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS

The shipping entering the port is chiefly confined to coastwise vessels, the cargoes being mainly timber, coal and oil. There is no passenger traffic entering the port.

	Motor	Sailing
Coastwise vessels entering Port ...	104	—
Foreign vessels entering Port ...	—	—

A position between Oxey Lake and Spit Buoy is the mooring station for suspected and infected ships in the case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and Typhus. The following diseases are regarded as exempt from detention at the mooring station:—Measles, Diphtheria, Chicken Pox, Scarlet Fever, Mumps, Enteric Fever, Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Cerebral Spinal Fever, Erysipelas, Malaria and Dysentery.

No cases of infectious diseases were reported during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

For the second year no cases of Diphtheria or of Scarlet Fever have been notified. As anticipated in my last report there is an increased notification of measles and whooping cough as compared with 1944.

The diseases notified were:—

Measles ...	204	Notified 1944 ...	5
Whooping Cough ...	66	" " ...	3
Dysentery ...	3	" " ...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	" " ...	4
Typhoid Fever ...	2	" " ...	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	" " ...	Nil

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Efforts continue to be made in the protection of children against Diphtheria, especially in regard to those under five years of age.

During the year a further 234 children under five years and four children between five and fifteen years received the protective treatment. Whilst no accurate percentage can be given owing to lack of data as to children treated by their own doctors it is estimated that over 90% of the children in both groups have received the protective treatment. The satisfactory progress in respect of the under fives is very largely due to the activities of the Child Welfare Centres, where 160 children received treatment. The remainder were treated at the Borough Clinic or at the children's own homes.

SCABIES

There is little evidence of this disease now being prevalent in the Borough, only 23 cases having been brought to my notice during the year as compared with 95 in 1944, and only seven families were concerned in the 23 cases. Emulsion is supplied free of charge and printed instructions for treatment are given at the same time.

TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty-nine cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year; this was an increase of twelve cases over 1944. Four of the cases were transfers from other districts. There were twenty-two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and seven Non-Pulmonary.

GENERAL SURVEY

With regard to Infectious Diseases, as anticipated in my last year's report, epidemics of measles and whooping cough spread throughout the Borough. The number of cases of whooping cough notified falls short of the number actually occurring because many mild cases are not notified at all.

I have referred to Diphtheria Immunisation earlier in the report; the fact that no cases have been notified during the last two years is encouraging.

Housing conditions are still far from satisfactory and are likely to remain so for some time to come owing to the supply of houses being insufficient for the population. The Council is fully aware of the position and making every effort to overcome the difficulties; the present building programme should improve the position during the next twelve months.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector has again rendered me every assistance in his power, of which I wish to express my appreciation, and also I wish to express my thanks to the rest of the staff for their kind co-operation during the year.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their unfailing support of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and myself.

Yours faithfully,

E. CROFT WATTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

